

date, but he offers no adequate alternative reason. One point that he does emphasize however deserves careful consideration, i. e. that in judging whether the young or adult birds migrate first we are often basing our conclusions upon cases of arrested migration— young birds which have dropped out of the flight exhausted, and not upon the migratory flight itself. In the case of land birds however, the entire flight has to pause somewhere and we should at our stations of observation have just as good an opportunity of seeing one part of it as another.

These are big problems however, and are only incidentally connected with the main subject of Mr. Loomis's report which will take its place as one of the notable contributions to the natural history of a group of birds as baffling as they are fascinating. The key to their ultimate systematic arrangement will be found in the acquisition of adequate series of breeding birds from all of the scattered islets to which they resort to rear their young. Until we in a measure secure such material a reasonable conservatism in the description of new forms is perhaps the wisest course to pursue.

The half-tone plates, beside the portraits already referred to, consist of photographs of Albatrosses on the Galapagos Islands and of numerous skins illustrating variations in coloration of adults and young. There is a detailed map of the Galapagos Group and another of the oceans of the world.

A previous publication, No. VIII of this series, by Mr. E. W. Gifford, issued August 11, 1913, covered the other families of water birds and the doves obtained by the expedition. As we understand that Mr. Gifford is now engaged in other lines of work we fear that he may not contemplate completing his report on the remaining families contained in the collection. If not it is sincerely to be hoped that the authorities of the California Academy will arrange for their study by some one of the California ornithologists as material of such value to ornithology should be reported upon without further delay.— W. S.

Murphy on Atlantic Oceanites.¹— This is the second contribution by the same author from the Brewster-Sanford collection of sea birds in The American Museum of Natural History. Mr. Murphy's conclusions are based on a study of more than two hundred skins of the Wilson's Petrel in the collections in the American Museum (including those of Dr. Jonathan Dwight and Dr. L. C. Sanford), the Brooklyn Museum, and the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy. This wealth of material makes his conclusions correspondingly convincing. In the section on plumages and molts, it is shown that the juvenal plumage is recognizably different from that of the adult, and that the molt and growth of wing quills in the adult causes a seasonal variation in the wing measurement quite sufficient

¹ A Study of the Atlantic *Oceanites*. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXVIII, pp. 117-146, pls. I-III, March 26, 1918.

to account for the different races of this bird, which have been claimed for the Atlantic. The taxonomic status, migration, breeding, occurrence in summer near New York, and food are taken up separately and in detail; and the paper is not only a satisfactory review of the species but will be found useful for comparison in work on the less well known forms of petrels. It is illustrated with interesting and attractive photographs from life by the author and Mr. Howard H. Cleaves.—J. T. N.

Cory's 'Catalogue of Birds of the Americas.'¹—The great activity in the study of neotropical birds during the past few years has rendered all of our catalogues out of date, while the most recent one dealing with South American birds, that of Brabourne and Chubb, is disappointing to the general student from the fact that the Central American species are necessarily omitted. A work therefore, such as Mr. Cory has begun, which is both up to date and at the same time covers the entire New World, is particularly welcome at this time. Under each species and subspecies are given the original reference with the type locality and one or more additional references to important papers, including always the first reference to the name as adopted in the list. Then follows a brief statement of the range, and the number of specimens contained in the Field Museum Collection, with the localities which they represent. In the case of species not described in the 'British Museum Catalogue' or in Ridgway's 'Birds of North and Middle America,' a brief description is given in a footnote. As to the species recognized, the author is guided by the two works above mentioned and by such monographic papers as have appeared subsequently. Recently described forms not considered in such works are admitted pending future judgment. This plan seems to us an admirable one as it is not biased by the views of one individual which in such a work must needs be of very unequal value.

The classification follows that of Bowdler Sharpe's 'Hand List of Birds' and the present part covers the families from the Owls to the Hummingbirds inclusive. This plan, of beginning the work with 'Part II' as the author explains, has been adopted with the idea of leaving to the last the families still to be treated by Ridgway in this 'Birds of North and Middle America' since the immediate treatment of these groups would have necessitated a very large number of footnote descriptions which can be avoided when reference to the above work is possible.

As in most works of this nature the author has found it necessary to propose a certain number of new forms. Of these we note the following: *Speotyto cunicularia minor* (p. 40); Boa Vista, Amazonia; *Aratinga cactorum perpallida* (p. 59), Ceara, Brazil; *Eupsittula pertinax margaritensis* (p. 63), Margarita Island; *Amazona amazonica tobagensis* (p. 83), Tobago;

¹ A Catalogue of Birds of the Americas. By Charles B. Cory. Part II, No. 1. Field Museum of Natural History, Publication 197. Zoölogical Series, Vol. XIII. Chicago, U. S. A., March, 1918. Svo, pp. 1-315.